

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A trimming system for a user-operated ground vehicle capable of performing mowing and trimming operations, said system comprising:

drive means operatively coupled to a drive system of the vehicle having said trimming system mounted thereon;

a trimming unit operatively coupled to said drive means for performing edge trimming operations, and

a guide wheel mounted to a vehicle frame adjacent said trimming unit for maintaining at least one trimming wire of said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, said guide wheel being mounted on a resiliently biased bracket, said bracket being fixedly mounted to the vehicle frame and resiliently biased by a spring mounted between ~~said~~ the vehicle frame and said bracket for allowing material and spring biased deflection of said bracket by a predetermined distance under the bias of said spring relative to said trimming unit and the vehicle frame upon contact of said guide wheel with the stationary object.

2. (Original) A trimming system according to claim 1, wherein said drive means comprising at least one driven pulley operatively coupled to a drive pulley of the vehicle for driving said trimming unit.

3. (Original) A trimming system according to claim 2, wherein said drive pulley being coupled to a mowing unit and said trimming unit to at least one of selectively and simultaneously drive said mowing and trimming units.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 1, wherein said guide wheel being made of nylon.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A trimming system for a user-operated ground vehicle capable of performing mowing and trimming operations, said system comprising:

drive means operatively coupled to a drive system of the vehicle having said trimming system mounted thereon;

a trimming unit operatively coupled to said drive means for performing edge trimming operations, and

a guide wheel mounted on a driven axle of said trimming unit for maintaining at least one trimming wire of said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, said guide wheel being mounted on the vehicle by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said guide wheel by rotation of said guide wheel relative to said shaft.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A trimming system according to claim 1, wherein said trimming unit including a spindle having at least one trimming wire for enabling performance of said edge trimming operations during rotation of said spindle, said spindle being coupled to said trimming unit by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said spindle by rotation of said spindle relative to said shaft.

10. (Original) A trimming system according to claim 1, wherein said trimming unit being coupled to the vehicle by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said trimming unit by rotation of said trimming unit relative to said shaft.

11. (Currently Amended) A vehicle for performing mowing and edge trimming operations, said vehicle comprising:
a mowing system for performing mowing operations;

a trimming system for performing edge trimming operations and being operatively coupled to a drive system of said vehicle for at least one of selectively and simultaneously driving said mowing and trimming systems, and

a guide wheel mounted to a vehicle frame adjacent said trimming system for maintaining at least one trimming wire of said trimming system at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, said guide wheel being mounted on a resiliently biased bracket, said bracket being fixedly mounted to the vehicle frame and resiliently biased by a spring mounted between said the vehicle frame and said bracket for allowing material and spring biased deflection of said bracket by a predetermined distance under the bias of said spring relative to said trimming system and the vehicle frame upon contact of said guide wheel with the stationary object.

12. (Original) A vehicle according to claim 11, wherein said drive system comprising at least one drive pulley for at least one of selectively and simultaneously driving said mowing and trimming systems, and further comprising at least one driven pulley operatively coupled to said drive pulley for driving said trimming system.

13. (Currently Amended) A mowing and trimming system comprising:
a drive unit including at least one drive and driven pulley, said drive pulley being operatively coupled to said driven pulley to at least one of selectively and simultaneously drive a mowing unit for performing mowing operations and a trimming unit for performing edge trimming operations, and a guide wheel mounted to a vehicle frame, having said mowing and trimming system mounted thereon, adjacent said trimming unit for maintaining at least one trimming wire of said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, said guide wheel being mounted on a resiliently biased bracket, said bracket being fixedly mounted to the vehicle frame and resiliently biased by a spring mounted between said the vehicle frame and said bracket for allowing material and spring biased deflection of said bracket by a predetermined distance under the bias of said spring relative to said trimming unit and the vehicle frame upon contact of said guide wheel with the stationary object.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A mowing and trimming system comprising:
a drive unit including at least one drive and driven pulley, said drive pulley being operatively coupled to said driven pulley to at least one of selectively and simultaneously drive a mowing unit for performing mowing operations and a trimming unit for performing edge trimming operations, and a guide wheel mounted on a driven axle of said trimming unit for maintaining at least one trimming wire of said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, wherein said guide wheel being mounted on a vehicle having said mowing and trimming system mounted thereon, said guide wheel being mounted by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said guide wheel by rotation of said guide wheel relative to said shaft.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A mowing and trimming system according to claim 16, wherein said trimming unit including a spindle having at least one trimming wire for enabling performance of said edge trimming operations during rotation of said spindle, said spindle being coupled to said trimming unit by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said spindle by rotation of said spindle relative to said shaft.

19. (Previously Presented) A mowing and trimming system according to claim 16, wherein said trimming unit being coupled to a vehicle having said mowing and trimming system mounted thereon by a threaded shaft to enable height adjustment of said trimming unit by rotation of said trimming unit relative to said shaft.

20. (Previously Presented) A trimming system according to claim 1, wherein said bracket permits the predetermined deflection of said guide wheel to thus enable a user to operate the vehicle at a full speed in the vicinity of stationary objects.

21. (New) A trimming system for a user-operated ground vehicle capable of performing mowing and trimming operations, said system comprising:

drive means operatively coupled to a drive system of the vehicle having said trimming system mounted thereon;

a trimming unit operatively coupled to said drive means for performing edge trimming operations; and

a guide wheel mounted to or adjacent said trimming unit for maintaining at least one trimming member of said trimming unit at a predetermined distance from a stationary object during performance of said edge trimming operations, a height of said guide wheel being adjustable relative to the vehicle.